

**CERTIFIED FOR PARTIAL PUBLICATION\***

**IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT**

**(Yuba)**

----

THE PEOPLE,

Plaintiff and Respondent,

v.

THANG YANG,

Defendant and Appellant.

C062816

(Super. Ct. No. CRF08-0225)

APPEAL from a judgment of the Superior Court of Yuba County, Kathleen R. O'Connor, Judge. Affirmed as modified.

John F. Schuck, under appointment by the Court of Appeal, for Defendant and Appellant.

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General, Dane R. Gillette, Chief Assistant Attorney General, Michael P. Farrell, Assistant Attorney General, Charles A. French and Tia M. Coronado, Deputy Attorneys General, for Plaintiff and Respondent.

A jury acquitted defendant Thang Yang of murder, attempted murder, and shooting at an occupied car (Pen. Code, §§ 187/664,

---

\* Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rules 8.1100 and 8.1110, this opinion is certified for publication with the exception of parts I., II. and III. of the Discussion.

246),<sup>1</sup> but convicted him of voluntary manslaughter and participating in a criminal street gang (§§ 192, subd. (a) [count I], 186.22, subd. (a) [count IV]). The jury also sustained the following firearm enhancement on the voluntary manslaughter conviction: a co-principal personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, causing death, in an offense that was gang-committed. (§ 12022.53, subds. (d) & (e) (1) [hereafter section 12022.53(d) and (e) (1)].)

In the unpublished portion of this opinion (pts. I., II., & III., *post*), we disagree with defendant that the evidence is insufficient regarding his aiding and abetting of the voluntary manslaughter and a gang enhancement (§ 186.22, subd. (b) (1) (C)), and that the trial court erred in instructing on aiding and abetting and in failing to bifurcate gang allegations.

In the published portion (pt. IV., *post*), we agree with defendant that the enhancement for firearm discharge by a co-principal that caused death in a gang-committed felony (§ 12022.53(d) & (e) (1)--25 years to life) does not apply to him, because defendant was not convicted of one of the qualifying offenses enumerated in that statute. Consequently, we shall modify the judgment by striking this 25-year-to-life enhancement and imposing on defendant the previously stayed 10-year enhancement for a gang-committed violent felony.

---

<sup>1</sup> Undesignated statutory references are to the Penal Code.

(§§ 186.22, subd. (b)(1)(C), 667.5, subd. (c)(1).) In all other respects, we shall affirm the judgment.

## **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### ***The Shooting***

On the afternoon of May 8, 2008, in Linda, California, Ignacio Castro was in the front passenger seat of a car driven by his older brother, Raymond Castro, when the two of them noticed defendant's car stopped behind them at a traffic light. Earlier in the day, Raymond had seen defendant's car drive by where Raymond worked.<sup>2</sup> Ignacio, who was 17 years old, had known defendant, who was nearly 17, since kindergarten.<sup>3</sup> As we shall explain later, there was tension between defendant and the Castro brothers.

When the traffic light changed, Raymond turned right and defendant went straight ahead. Raymond handed Ignacio a heavy flashlight to protect himself in case of trouble.

Shortly thereafter, when Raymond and Ignacio saw defendant's car driving on Oakwood Drive, Raymond sped up, ran a stop sign, and turned onto Oakwood, getting about two car lengths behind defendant.

Ignacio testified that, as he and Raymond followed defendant, Meng Thao (Thao) leaned out of the passenger's side

---

<sup>2</sup> For ease of reference, some witnesses will be referred to by their first names rather than last. No disrespect is intended.

<sup>3</sup> Defendant was tried as an adult.

window of defendant's car, pointed a gun at the Castros, and fired.<sup>4</sup> Raymond pushed Ignacio down and started to make a U-turn. Ignacio heard more gunfire and then noticed Raymond had been shot. Raymond's car coasted to the curb, and stopped; Raymond had been felled by a bullet to the head.

Ignacio, along with another witness, as well as defendant himself, placed defendant, Thao and Kue in defendant's car at the time of the shooting.

An eyewitness to the shooting, who lived on Oakwood Drive, saw defendant's car drive slowly at an angle over the first speed bump (which most cars that height do, to avoid scraping); drive slowly between the two speed bumps (which was odd, because most cars speed up between the two speed bumps); and then increase its speed over the second bump and turn abruptly at the first intersecting street. This witness, as well as the police, also searched Raymond's car for weapons and ammunition just after the shooting, finding none; nor did Ignacio have anything in his hands.

Defendant's car was located after the shooting in an area claimed by defendant's gang, beneath a car cover with its engine still warm. The rear window of the car was shattered. Shattered glass had been found at the shooting site. A criminalist determined that a bullet traveled from the front to

---

<sup>4</sup> With three separate juries, defendant was tried along with Thao and a third person in defendant's car, Pheng Kue (Kue).

the back of the car, entered the edge of the rear window frame, and shattered the rear window.

Forensic evidence and a police interview statement from defendant linked the nine-millimeter handgun used in the shooting to Thao as well as to defendant's car (at the time of the shooting).

### ***Gang Evidence and History Between Defendant and the Castros***

There was extensive evidence that defendant, Thao and Kue were members of an active criminal street gang, the Hmong Nation Society (HNS). This evidence came from defendant's admissions, from tattoos, from police searches and contacts, from gang expert testimony, and from altercations involving defendant and Thao acting together.

The HNS gang expert testified that respect and intimidation are paramount in gang culture and that if a gang member feels disrespected, some type of retaliatory violence will usually follow. Defendant essentially echoed this testimony in a police interview, and also agreed that an HNS drive-by shooting would build HNS's reputation.

Defendant and Ignacio had been fighting and having problems with one another since the eighth grade.

In March of 2008, defendant, along with others, were at a Wal-Mart when they became embroiled in a fight with Ignacio and Raymond and another Castro brother. Raymond hit defendant in the head and threatened to kill those in defendant's group. Defendant was afraid because, according to him, Raymond, whose

street name was Demon, had recently been paroled from prison.<sup>5</sup> Also according to defendant, after the Wal-Mart incident, Raymond drove by his house several times (once with Ignacio) and looked at him menacingly; apparently fired gunshots near the house of a friend of defendant's who was involved with defendant in the Wal-Mart fight with the Castros; and (with Ignacio and two others) threatened defendant's brother in a gang-related way.

Before the shooting at issue here, defendant had told Thao and Kue about what had happened at Wal-Mart, about Raymond's threats there, and about Raymond's drive-by glares.

On the day before the shooting, Thao, accompanied by defendant, started a fight with Jaime Razo, the Castro brothers' cousin. During this fight, defendant said, Thao pulled out the gun that he usually carried--a "nine, [or a] .380 or something like that"--and yelled "HNS."

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. Sufficiency of Evidence of Aiding and Abetting Shooting (Voluntary Manslaughter) and of Gang Enhancement**

Defendant contends there is insufficient evidence (A) that he aided and abetted the shooting of Raymond, for his voluntary manslaughter conviction; and (B) that this offense was committed on behalf of a criminal street gang, for his gang enhancement. We disagree.

---

<sup>5</sup> Raymond did have Norteno gang-related tattoos, and was a self-admitted Norteno gang member.

In reviewing the sufficiency of evidence in a criminal appeal, we must review the whole record in the light most favorable to the judgment to determine whether it contains substantial evidence--i.e., evidence that is credible and of solid value--from which a rational trier of fact could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. (*People v. Hill* (1998) 17 Cal.4th 800, 848-849.)

***A. Aiding and Abetting Shooting (Voluntary Manslaughter)***

As the jury was properly instructed, a person aids and abets an offense when he (1) with knowledge of the perpetrator's unlawful purpose, and (2) with the intent of committing or encouraging or facilitating the commission of the crime, (3) by act or advice aids, encourages or instigates the commission of the crime. (*People v. Cooper* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 1158, 1164; see CALJIC No. 3.01.)

Defendant claims the evidence showed that he merely drove the car, without any knowledge of the shooter's purpose or any intent to facilitate that purpose; consequently, the evidence is insufficient to show aiding and abetting because mere presence at the crime scene is not enough.

Defendant's view of the evidence is a crimped one, to say the least.

Evidence showed that defendant, Thao and Kue were members of HNS, a criminal street gang. According to defendant, he told Thao and Kue about his confrontation at Wal-Mart with the Castro brothers, about Raymond Castro's threats, and about Raymond's

menacing drive-by glares. Just prior to the shooting, defendant pointed out the Castro brothers, to Thao and Kue, while stopped behind the Castros' car at the traffic light.

In fact, according to defendant, just the day before the shooting, Thao, accompanied by defendant, had tangled with a cousin of the Castro brothers. During this scrape, Thao pulled out the pistol that he usually carried--a "nine [or a] .380"--and yelled "HNS." Raymond was shot with a nine-millimeter pistol, and Thao was identified as the shooter.

When interviewed by the police after Raymond's shooting, defendant stated that if an HNS member has a problem with someone, the gang will retaliate. Further, he stated that if an HNS gang member has a gun, they carry it, and he agreed that a drive-by shooting committed by HNS gang members would enhance the gang's reputation. The evidence showed that defendant had big problems with the Castro brothers, and that defendant knew Thao carried a gun.

Furthermore, there is the matter of defendant's driving during the shooting. Evidence showed that defendant angled slowly over the first speed bump, drove abnormally slowly between the two speed bumps, and then sped over the second bump, abruptly turning at the closest intersection and driving his car to his gang's turf where it was then covered. As the People argue persuasively, a jury could reasonably infer that defendant "knew of the shooter's intent to shoot at the Castro brothers, that [defendant] shared that intent, and that [defendant] aided



the shooter by manipulating his driving before and during the shooting and then driving the shooter away from the scene."

Defendant counters that the "fact that the shooter apparently shot through and shattered the back window of [defendant's] car is strong evidence that the shooting was the spontaneous, unplanned action of only the actual shooter." Viewing the evidence, however, in the light most favorable to the judgment--something defendant refuses to do--this fact could be viewed merely as the result of a bad shot that entered the edge of the rear window frame.

We conclude the evidence is sufficient to sustain defendant's voluntary manslaughter conviction on the basis of aiding and abetting the shooter.

### ***B. Gang Enhancement***

To establish the gang enhancement for the homicide offense, the prosecution was required to establish that (1) the crime was "'committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang,'" and (2) defendant had "'the specific intent to promote, further, or assist in any criminal conduct by gang members.'" (*People v. Villalobos* (2006) 145 Cal.App.4th 310, 322, quoting § 186.22, subd. (b)(1) [the gang enhancement statute].)

For the reasons we just set forth, we conclude the evidence is sufficient to sustain the gang enhancement against defendant as well.

Defendant counters, "There is no evidence that the shooting was in any way retaliatory. There is no evidence that the animosity between [defendant] and Raymond was gang-related. Indeed, the evidence seems to show that the animosity was personal."

Aside from the contradiction inherent in this argument, the evidence displayed a tit-for-tat gang interplay between Raymond and defendant. Moreover, if the animosity between these two was merely personal, and not gang-related, then why did defendant's fellow gang member unload the fatal barrage?

Nor can defendant find solace in *Garcia v. Carey* (9th Cir. 2005) 395 F.3d 1099, 1103. In *People v. Romero* (2006) 140 Cal.App.4th 15, the court concluded that *Carey* had misinterpreted the gang enhancement statute, section 186.22, subdivision (b)(1). That statute, *Romero* said, by "its plain language," "requires a showing of specific intent to promote, further, or assist in 'any criminal conduct by gang members,' rather than *other* criminal conduct" (i.e., beyond the present crime) as *Carey* had concluded. (*Romero, supra*, 140 Cal.App.4th at p. 19.)

## **II. Trial Court Did Not Err in Instructing on Aiding and Abetting Homicide**

Defendant contends the trial court, in response to a jury question during deliberations, erroneously instructed the jury on when the homicide was complete for aiding and abetting purposes. Under this instruction, defendant claims, he could have been convicted as an aider and abettor of the voluntary

manslaughter merely for driving the shooter away from the scene (i.e., merely for post-shooting conduct). We disagree.

The jury asked: "[A]iding and abetting. We have a question. When did the crime end? When shot was fired or when Raymond Castro died or when?"

The trial court answered by instructing in pertinent part: "A person who aids and abets after the crime is complete is not a principal and has not committed the crime. [¶] For Count I, alleged murder in the first degree and the lesser-included crimes of murder in the second degree and voluntary manslaughter, a person can aid and abet after a shooting so long as the aiding and abetting occurs *before* the victim dies."<sup>6</sup>

The trial court did not erroneously instruct on homicide completion for aiding and abetting purposes. The trial court's instruction was drawn from the legal principle noted in *People v. Celis* (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 466 that, "[i]n a simple murder case, i.e., not involving the felony-murder rule, a person may aid and abet a murder after the fatal blow is struck as long as the aiding and abetting occurs before the victim dies. After the victim dies, what would be aiding and abetting legally turns into being an accessory 'after a felony has been committed.' (§ 32.)" (*Celis*, at pp. 473-474.) This principle derives from

---

<sup>6</sup> As for count II, attempted murder, and count III, shooting at an occupied car, the trial court instructed that these crimes were complete, for aiding and abetting purposes, when the shots were allegedly fired; the jury acquitted defendant of these two offenses.

the fact that since a "victim's death is a sine qua non [i.e., an essential element] of murder, the crime [is] not . . . 'complete[]' until [the victim] . . . die[s]. '[A] murder ends with the death of the victim.'" (*Id.* at p. 471.)

As noted above in part I.A., the trial court had instructed the jury properly on the elements of aiding and abetting: knowledge of the perpetrator's unlawful purpose; intent to help commit the crime; and act or advice to help commit the crime. The trial court's full instruction in answer to the jury's question referred repeatedly to aiding and abetting. The trial court also instructed the jury that it was to consider the instructions as a whole. Finally, the trial court had also instructed the jury with CALJIC No. 3.14 [accomplice]: "Merely assenting to or aiding or assisting in the commission of a crime without knowledge of the unlawful purpose of the perpetrator and without the intent or purpose of committing, encouraging or facilitating the commission of the crime is not criminal. Thus a person who assents to, or aids, or assists in, the commission of a crime without that knowledge and without that intent or purpose is not an accomplice in the commission of the crime."

In light of these instructions, to convict defendant as an aider and abettor (a principal) to the homicide, the jury would have to have found that defendant had the requisite unlawful knowledge and intent during his assisting actions; he could not be convicted as an aider and abettor, as defendant argues, merely for driving the shooter away from the scene, i.e.,

without this requisite knowledge and intent. And, as we saw in part I.A. of this opinion, there was sufficient evidence that defendant aided and abetted the shooter "by manipulating his driving before and during the shooting and then driving the shooter away from the scene." Although an instruction would have been helpful that defendant could not be convicted as an aider and abettor of the homicide--but only as an accessory after the fact--if he simply drove the shooter away from the scene without previously knowing the shooter's purpose and sharing the shooter's intent, the instructions given conveyed this adequately.

### **III. Gang Bifurcation**

Defendant contends the trial court abused its discretion in denying his motion to bifurcate the gang enhancement (§ 186.22, subd. (b)(1)) and in denying his motion to plead to count IV (the crime of participation in a criminal street gang--§ 186.22, subd. (a)).

The trial court did not abuse its discretion in either regard. (*People v. Hernandez* (2004) 33 Cal.4th 1040, 1048 [setting forth this standard of review] (*Hernandez*)). In issuing these denials, the trial court reasoned that "evidence of gang membership . . . is significant to explain the motive behind the [alleged] murder and the attempted murder and the shooting of an occupied vehicle. [¶] . . . [¶] . . . [T]he defendants have injected much of their gang status into the crimes themselves, and . . . the enhancements and the

substantive gang offense are inextricably intertwined with the remaining substantive offenses.”

This case reeked of gang behavior. Defendant’s attempts to excise all such activity would have presented a distorted picture of the charged offenses to the jury. As *Hernandez* recognized, “Evidence of the defendant’s gang affiliation . . . can help prove identity, motive, modus operandi, specific intent, means of applying force or fear, or other issues pertinent to guilt of the charged crime.” (*Hernandez, supra*, 33 Cal.4th at p. 1049.) Here, defendant’s motive and intent were significant issues. Furthermore, the trial court gave an instruction that limited the jury’s use of the evidence supporting the criminal street gang enhancement. (See *Hernandez, supra*, 33 Cal.4th at p. 1044.)<sup>7</sup>

#### **IV. The Section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) Firearm Enhancement\***

Defendant contends that his 25-year-to-life enhancement for firearm discharge by a co-principal that caused death in a gang-committed felony (§ 12022.53(d) & (e)(1)) applies only if defendant had been convicted of one of the offenses specifically listed in that statute. We agree, and shall strike this enhancement.

---

<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to defendant’s request, we have also reviewed the transcript of the ex parte in camera proceeding involving Ignacio Castro’s victim-witness therapist, Jason Roper, to determine whether it contained any nonprivileged evidence material to defendant’s case. It does not.

\* See footnote, *ante*, page 1.

Enacted in 1997 as part of the so-called "10-20-Life" bill (Assem. Bill No. 4 (1997-1998 Reg. Sess.), section 12022.53 imposes progressive sentence enhancements of 10 years, 20 years, or 25 years to life, for progressively egregious firearm use applicable to certain enumerated felonies. (§ 12022.53, subds. (b), (c) & (d), respectively; see also *id.*, subd. (a)(1)-(18); *People v. Garcia* (2002) 28 Cal.4th 1166, 1171 (*Garcia*).) Section 12022.53(e)(1) "imposes vicarious liability under this section on aiders and abettors who commit crimes in participation of a criminal street gang." (*Garcia*, at p. 1171.)

At issue here is the 25-year-to-life enhancement set forth in section 12022.53(d), which may apply to a nonshooting aider and abettor in a gang-committed crime under that section's subdivision (e)(1).

As relevant here, section 12022.53(d) states:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who, in the commission of a felony specified in subdivision (a) [subd. (a) lists 18 major felony offenses such as murder, rape, mayhem, and kidnapping], [or] Section 246 [shooting at an occupied car] . . . , personally and intentionally discharges a firearm and proximately causes great bodily injury . . . or death, to any person other than an accomplice, shall be punished by an additional and consecutive term of imprisonment in the state prison for 25 years to life."

Section 12022.53(e) (1) specifies:

"The enhancements provided in this section [i.e., subd. (b)--10 years; subd. (c)--20 years; or subd. (d)--25 years to life] shall apply to any person who is a principal in the commission of an offense if both of the following are pled and proved:

"(A) The person violated subdivision (b) of Section 186.22 [i.e., enhancement for felony offense committed on behalf of criminal street gang][;] [and]

"(B) Any principal in the offense committed any act specified in subdivision (b), (c), or (d)."

As pertinent here, defendant--who the evidence shows was the driver rather than the shooter in this fatal drive-by shooting--was convicted of voluntary manslaughter (which is not an offense listed in § 12022.53), and found to have violated the gang enhancement of section 186.22, subdivision (b), in doing so. One of defendant's co-principals, however, was convicted of murder (a § 12022.53-listed offense) and found to have committed an act specified in section 12022.53(d), arising from this same drive-by shooting.

The question is, in light of these facts, was defendant, through his aiding and abetting of the homicide offense, "a principal in the commission of an offense" that made the section 12022.53(d) and (e) (1) enhancement applicable to him? Our answer: No.



We find our answer largely in *Garcia*.

*Garcia* involved a fatal drive-by shooting committed by two gang members, one of whom was defendant Garcia. Garcia was the driver and not the shooter. The shooter was acquitted of all charges. Garcia, however, was convicted of second degree murder as an aider and abettor. The issue in *Garcia* was whether the 25-year-to-life enhancement under section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) could legally be imposed upon Garcia in the absence of the shooter's conviction. The *Garcia* court answered, yes. (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at pp. 1169-1170, 1172-1174.)

*Garcia* reasoned that because an aider and abettor may potentially be guilty of a more serious offense than the direct perpetrator (i.e., the shooter), the absence of the shooter's conviction is not dispositive of the aider and abettor's exposure to liability. (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1173.) This potential for an aider and abettor's greater culpability stems from the different defenses or extenuating circumstances available to joint participants in an offense, and from the fact that while such participants might be tied to a common act, their individual mental states, and therefore their independent levels of guilt, may differ. (See *Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1173; *People v. McCoy* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 1111, 1114, 1118-1120 (*McCoy*).) The *Garcia* court saw "no basis to depart from this general principle of aider and abettor liability with respect to section 12022.53, subdivisions (d) and (e)(1), especially when the Legislature has expressed its clear intent to punish aiders

and abettors in this context.” (*Garcia*, at p. 1173.) *Garcia* also noted that “‘it was extremely clear that someone personally and intentionally discharged the firearm which killed [the victim], and that should be sufficient so long as the other requirements of section 12022.53, subdivision (e)(1), are satisfied.’” (*Id.* at p. 1172.)

Of course, in *Garcia*, defendant Garcia was convicted of a section 12022.53-enumerated offense: murder. (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1170.) That cannot be said of defendant here, whose voluntary manslaughter offense is not part of the rogues’ gallery of section 12022.53 offenses. However, one of defendant’s co-principals was convicted of murder. Does the co-principal’s murder conviction provide a sufficient basis on which to apply the section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) enhancement to defendant? No.

*Garcia* emphasized the general principle that an enhancement does not exist in a vacuum: “‘[A] defendant is not at risk for punishment under an enhancement allegation *until convicted of a related substantive offense.*’” (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1174, italics added, quoting *People v. Dennis* (1998) 17 Cal.4th 468, 500; see also *People v. Smart* (2006) 145 Cal.App.4th 1216, 1226 [an enhancement cannot define the crime, cannot be “the tail wagging the dog”].)

From this, *Garcia* concluded that in order to find an aider and abettor, who is not the shooter, liable under the section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) enhancement, the prosecution must

plead and prove "that (1) a principal *committed an offense enumerated in section 12022.53 . . .* ; (2) a principal intentionally and personally discharged a firearm and proximately caused great bodily injury or death to any person other than an accomplice during the commission of *the offense*; (3) the aider and abettor was a principal in *the offense*; and (4) *the offense was [gang-]committed . . . .*" (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1174, italics added.) *Garcia* then added: "Although the aider and abettor must first be *convicted of the underlying offense* before the enhancement may apply (*People v. Dennis, supra*, 17 Cal.4th at p. 500), the prosecution need not plead and prove the *conviction* of the offense by the principal who intentionally and personally discharged a firearm." (*Garcia*, at p. 1174, first italics added.) And, for good measure, *Garcia* quoted an appellate court's observation that section 12022.53(e)(1) "'is expressly drafted to extend the enhancement for gun use in *any enumerated serious felony* to gang members who aid and abet *that offense* in furtherance of the objectives of a criminal street gang.'" (*Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th at p. 1172, italics added, quoting *People v. Gonzales* (2001) 87 Cal.App.4th 1, 15.)

For these reasons, we conclude that because defendant was convicted only of voluntary manslaughter (count I), rather than the section 12022.53-enumerated offense of murder, the enhancement under section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) does not apply to him.

The People counter this conclusion by noting that, just as an aider and abettor may have a more culpable mental state than the direct perpetrator and therefore be convicted of a greater offense (see *Garcia, supra*, 28 Cal.4th 1166; *McCoy, supra*, 25 Cal.4th 1111), an aider and abettor may have a less culpable mental state than the direct perpetrator and therefore be convicted of a lesser homicide-related offense than what the direct perpetrator committed (see *People v. Nero* (2010) 181 Cal.App.4th 504; *People v. Samaniego* (2009) 172 Cal.App.4th 1148). In this way, the People argue, "the fact the jury concluded [defendant] had a less culpable [mental state] does not preclude a finding that he was a principal to Raymond's murder."

For two reasons, we are not persuaded. First, *Nero* and *Samaniego* had nothing substantively to do with the section 12022.53 enhancement. Second, and more importantly, by inverting the principle that an aider and abettor may be more culpable than the direct perpetrator--i.e., an aider and abettor may also be less culpable--the People have turned the principle on its head here. The section 12022.53(d) and (e) (1) enhancement is one of the most, if not the most, severe enhancements in California's sentencing scheme (equivalent to the sentence for first degree, premeditated murder--§ 190). The *Garcia* court was on solid legal ground in finding that this severe punishment could be applied to an aider and abettor convicted of the section 12022.53-enumerated offense of murder

(even if the direct perpetrator, the shooter, was acquitted), because an aider and abettor may be found more culpable than the direct perpetrator. However, this solid legal ground turns to sand when an aider and abettor is convicted, not of the section 12022.53-enumerated offense of murder, but of the lesser, nonenumerated offense of voluntary manslaughter, and on a less culpable mental state at that.

We strike defendant's 25-year-to-life enhancement imposed under section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1). We strike as well defendant's analogous, stayed enhancements under section 12022.53, subdivisions (b) and (e)(1) and section 12022.53, subdivisions (c) and (e)(1). And, we impose the 10-year enhancement under section 186.22, subdivision (b)(1)(C), that the trial court previously imposed on defendant but stayed.

### **DISPOSITION**

As to count I, defendant's 25-year-to-life enhancement imposed under section 12022.53(d) and (e)(1) is stricken (as are the analogous, stayed enhancements under § 12022.53, subds. (b) & (e)(1) and § 12022.53, subds. (c) & (e)(1)). Also as to count I, the stay on defendant's 10-year enhancement under section 186.22, subdivision (b)(1)(C) is lifted, and that enhancement is imposed. As so modified, the judgment is affirmed and defendant's aggregate sentence is 13 years eight months in state prison.<sup>8</sup> The trial court is directed to prepare an amended

---

<sup>8</sup> The recent amendments to section 4019 do not operate to modify defendant's entitlement to additional presentence custody credit

abstract of judgment to reflect these modifications and to send a certified copy to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. **(CERTIFIED FOR PARTIAL PUBLICATION)**

\_\_\_\_\_, BUTZ, J.

We concur:

\_\_\_\_\_, BLEASE, Acting P. J.

\_\_\_\_\_, RAYE, J.

---

as he was committed for a serious felony. (§§ 1192.7, subd. (c)(1), 4019, subds. (b)(2) & (c)(2); Stats. 2009, 3d Ex. Sess., ch. 28, § 50.)